

NEWSLETTER

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Planegg visit

A delegation of 15 people has so far signed up to make the journey to Planegg for the weekend of **Saturday 27-Tuesday 30 September, 2014**. During the visit there will be a signing of the official twinning agreement between Didcot and Planegg, to match the ceremony that took place in Didcot in July 2013.

Future twinning exchanges

We have recently received an invitation from our twin town in France to visit them next year. Although the date has yet to be agreed with Meylan twinning committee, it is likely to be some time in September, usually in the second half of the month. Maybe you would like to pencil this into your diary?

Social evening at Cornerstone

The next informal get together in Cornerstone Cafe is planned for **Tuesday 23 September**. If you want to find our more about twinning, or just have a sociable drink with fellow twinners, just come along between 19h30 and 21h00.

You might like to use this as an opportunity to try out some of your language skills. Try speaking to your neighbour in French or German.



Harwell Feast

Summer events

The Twinning Association set up its 'Snacks and Wine' stall in the forecourt of the village hall for HARWELL FEAST. Sadly it was a cold and rainy bank holiday Monday, so the prospect of a chilled white wine was not too appetising, although the hot pizza slices sold rather better. Despite the poor weather we raised over £100. Many thanks to all the volunteers and cooks.

A similar sum was also raised at the DIDCOT SUMMER FETE. Here we tempted the visitors to guess the location of some treasure (a hamper from Waitrose) or to buy raffle tickets. At the same time, younger visitors to the stall were able to make English, French, German or European flags to take away with them. Thanks to the efforts of Association member, Marcia Blackman, and, on the day, Marilyne Marchal's great selling technique, this was a very successful event for us, raising out profile within the town.

We are delighted to say that we have now obtained additional copies of the **European Passport stickers books** so if you want one of these come along to the Clubs & Societies Day at Didcot Civic Hall on Sunday 14th September, 10am - 3 pm.

**THANKS FOR RECENT SPONSORSHIP FROM
Waitrose Supermarket, Wallingford
Wilkinson's, Didcot**

**Thanks also to DIDCOT TOWN COUNCIL for
their continued financial support.**

For more information go to our website
www.didcottwinning.org.uk

New Chairman

At our first full committee meeting after the AGM, Axel Macdonald was unanimously elected chairman of the Association. After his signing the new twinning agreement with Planegg in 2013 as mayor of Didcot, the committee was very pleased that he was prepared to take on this important role.

Didcot Clubs & Societies Day

Once again the Twinning Association will be manning a stall at this event. If you want to come along for a chat, or bring some friends/neighbours that you think might be interested in Twinning, please come along to the **Ciivic Hall on Sunday 14th September between 10 am and 3 pm.**

How you can get involved

Joining twinning activities is open to all residents of Didcot and the surrounding villages. Our most important events are the visits between the twin towns and we welcome anyone who wishes to join these. If you want to visit Planegg or Meylan, watch out in the newsletter or on our website for details of forthcoming trips. If you would like to host a visitor, please get in touch with a committee member.

More information

Annual Twinning membership is £10 per household due each year in June .

Didcot Summer Fete



New Charter hanging at the Civic Hall



Newcomers to Didcot

Phil & I relocated to Didcot in July 2013. Not knowing the area or anybody and with Phil at work I had to find new interests & friends and one organisation I wanted to investigate was The Twinning Association. We went along to the Clubs & Societies Day and met a few of the committee & decided to become involved. Both of us are Francophiles & have a little knowledge of Germany.

The social evenings organised at Cornerstone were a way in which we began to get to know a few other members of the Association and who also gave us more information about what was involved. I went along to Ladygrove School's special assembly for the School Exchange then taking place with Geoff, Peter & the Mayor. It brought back happy memories of participating in school exchanges and reminded me of the sheer hard work put into organising this by all of those involved. We were also invited to a meal with two of the visiting French teachers & again that gave us more opportunity to get to know people and speak French. Attending the AGM, I agreed to stand for the Committee, no chance for second thoughts – an immediate vote and that was that!

We are also participating in the visit to Planegg in September and look forward to being able to host both French & German visitors in time.

As a newcomer to the area, it is another wonderful way to meet different people, make new friends, to broaden one's horizons, not just locally but also in Meylan & Planegg. Hopefully when we have the opportunity to be hosts we will be able to give our visitors an experience that they will enjoy and help the Association go from strength to strength.

Cornerstone Social Evening

Tuesday 23 September 19h30 - 21h00

Join us for a drink and a chat



ECOLE PRIMAIRE DES BEALIERES DOES LONDON

Luckily no-one was superstitious (or at least no-one was admitting it!) when we set off for London with 30 children from the Ecole Primaire des Béalières, Meylan on Friday 13 June. The kids had spent the week at Ladygrove Park Primary School having lessons and going on local trips with their English class mates, a trip to see the sights of London was the grand finale before heading home on Saturday.

In addition to the French children and their 3 teachers it was felt some local knowledge would be helpful so Emily Hall (a teacher at Ladygrove Park), Marilynne Marchal, Sue Totterdell and myself (from the Twinning Association) joined the group.

A great deal of planning and organising had gone into the trip by the French teachers (with the help of Marilynne) and we went up to London by coach which was much easier for such a large group than going by train and tube. However the downside was that because of the amount of traffic in London we were an hour late reaching the O2 arena, our starting point for the rest of the day. The kids were remarkably patient, there was very little "Are we nearly there yet?" or rather "Sommes-nous près encore là?!"

First stop (once we were all wearing our regulation red baseball caps) was to catch the river bus at Greenwich. This is no slow little boat but a high speed hydrofoil which gave us a white-water ride without the need to go to a theme park! Along the way there were good views of Canary Wharf, the Globe Theatre, Tower Bridge, the Tower of London, etc. The only downside being it's very difficult to take photos when bouncing along the river at goodness knows how many knots.

We disembarked at Westminster (no-one lost overboard!) and headed for a restaurant not far from the London Eye – breakfast had been a long time ago and glucose levels were falling. Having recharged the batteries with fish and chips and cans of coke off we headed on a short walking tour. This was where Sue and I came into our own acting as the broom wagon or whippers-in, making sure we didn't lose anyone off the end of the 'crocodile', keeping the slower kids moving along and snatching them from under the wheels of cars and buses as they dawdled on the crossings long after the green man had gone!

First stop, Parliament Square and the obligatory photographs of the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben. Next, Westminster Abbey Souvenir Shop for those essential gifts to take home to parents. I suspect that for a few this was the highlight of the trip – those kids could shop for France! When we had finally extracted the last one from the shop we headed for Buckingham Palace. Sadly the Queen didn't come out to see us but there were guards marching around and lots of photo opportunities. Unfortunately it was now getting late and we headed alongside Green Park and Hyde Park for our rendezvous on Park Lane with the coach.

It had been a great day, we had seen a lot and the weather gods had smiled on us, but we were now all hot, tired and ready for home. The journey back was uneventful, if a little slow getting out of London, and the final stretch coming into Didcot was rounded off by a resounding rendition of a song the children had been working on during the week back in school.

Geoff Oldham

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